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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Pacific Northwest Region
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Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

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Ms. Mary Lou Soscia
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
811 S.W. 6th Avenue
Portland OR 97204

Subject: Columbia River TMDL Meeting of November 5, 2001

Mary Lou
Dear Ms. Soscia:

Thank you for traveling to Grand Coulee to meet with us on November 5 regarding your ongoing program to develop mainstem Columbia River Total Maximum Daily Loads for temperature and dissolved gas.

We share your interest in mainstem water quality improvements, and will continue to support installation of flow deflectors at Chief Joseph Dam, combined with joint operation of Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams to provide for reduced spills at Grand Coulee, which we view as the preferred option for reducing dissolved gas generation at both facilities. There appears to be limited operational and structural measures that could be evaluated to determine potential benefits for mainstem temperature management at Grand Coulee Dam if funds become available.

Based on the information presented, it appears the Lake Roosevelt water temperature model developed by Dr. Yearsley will need substantial refinement, including some improvements in input data, before it can be used for evaluation of temperature management alternatives for Grand Coulee Dam and Lake Roosevelt. We will continue to work with you to provide information and data to improve modeling tools. If you have any questions, please contact David Zimmer at (208) 378-5088.

Sincerely,

Monte L. McClendon
Program Manager